

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. I understand that stations and broadcasters have an inherent responsibility to objective and balanced. Editorial decisions on what are news and newsworthy are paramount.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy, take a look at the Fox News Channel to see a shining example.

Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. We furtively need an ascertainment process to insure broadcast groups are fulfilling their responsibilities in the public interest as part of the license renewal process. Thank you.